UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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21 July 1995

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* At London meeting on Bosnian crisis, Ministers call for maintenance of UNPROFOR, but say status quo is unacceptable; Secretary-General stresses need for clear mandates and direct dialogue between parties.

* Bosnian Serbs resume shelling of Zepa after surrender ultimatum is ignored; Bosnian Government troops open fire on UNPROFOR camp in enclave.

* General Assembly authorizes over $1.377 billion for United Nations peace-keeping operations in former Yugoslavia, Angola and Western Sahara.

* Secretary-General expresses concern about illicit trafficking in nuclear materials; suggests Security Council issue statement supporting IAEA efforts to tackle problem.

* * *

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Participants in the meeting generally agreed that the "dual-key" arrangement should be retained for any use of air power in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In considering the humanitarian aspects of the situation, speakers expressed admiration for the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other agencies. Such work was a critically important part of the international community's efforts on the ground, they said.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali congratulated the British Government for its initiative in convening the meeting, which permitted "a constructive and frank exchange of differing views". In his statement at the meeting, the Secretary-General cited UNPROFOR's success in preventing the Bosnian

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Nations Peace [illegible] UNPF) headquarters for the period 1 April to 30 November. It appropriated $150 million for the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) from 9 February to 8 August, and up to $14 million from 8 August to 31 December. The United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) received $50 million for the period 1 December 1994 to 30 June 1995, and $17 million for the period 1 July to 30 September.

The Assembly also appropriated $57 million for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Tribunal for Rwanda. Pending final decisions, the Tribunals will be funded partly from related peace-keeping missions and partly from the United Nations scales of assessment for certain years. In addition, it approved observer status for six organizations wishing to participate in the Fourth World Conference on Women.

* * *

Illicit trafficking in nuclear materials is a matter of growing international concern, according to the Secretary-General. In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 11 July, he recalled that the States Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty had decided earlier this year to extend the Treaty indefinitely. He said the international community should also place constraints on non-State actors, whose activities were particularly dangerous because of their clandestine nature.

The Secretary-General noted that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was giving the issue of illicit trafficking high priority, and had begun to execute an action plan to address it. He suggested that the Security Council issue a statement supporting the IAEA's efforts, and calling on the international community to increase its vigilance.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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24 July 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council expresses grave concern at deteriorating situation in Bihac; demands respect for status of Bosnian safe areas and safety of UNPROFOR personnel, following deaths of two French peace-keepers in Sarajevo.

* Security Council condemns acts of violence in Middle East after bus bombing in Israel; expresses full support for peace process.

* Special Rapporteur says evidence suggests Pale authorities are personally and directly responsible for massive human rights abuses in northern Bosnia and Herzegovina.

* Secretary-General recommends UNIFIL mandate be extended for six months, citing continued tension in southern Lebanon; says Force can be streamlined without affecting its operational capacity.

* United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks begins final session; Canada says draft treaty must not be weakened.

* * *

The Security Council today expressed grave concern at the deteriorating situation in and around Bihac. In a statement to correspondents, Council President Gerardo Martinez Blanco (Honduras) demanded that all parties cease hostile acts and respect the status of the Bosnian safe areas. He recalled earlier Council resolutions on the safe areas, including Bihac, particularly resolutions 836 (1993) and 959 (1994).

The Council demanded that all parties respect the safety and freedom of movement of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and its personnel. It expressed condolences to the French Government and to the families concerned following the deaths of two French peace-keepers in Bosnia and Herzegovina over the weekend.

The two French soldiers were killed in separate incidents in Sarajevo. One, a medical officer, died when Bosnian Serb forces fired five mortar rounds

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at UNPROFOR's Zetra camp. The other soldier was killed when the Bosnian Serbs opened fire on an UNPROFOR convoy near the airport.

In a related development, elements of the Rapid Reaction Force have been deployed on Mount Igman to deter attacks on United Nations personnel and convoys. Some 300 British troops with 12 artillery pieces have taken up position on the mountain, and will be able to observe areas from which the Bosnian Serbs have launched attacks in the past. Meanwhile, 540 French peace-keepers with 12 light tanks have been deployed in the area.

* * *

In a second statement issued in connection with today's bus bombing in Israel, the Council condemned all acts of violence and called on the parties in the Middle East to avoid acts of terrorism. It called on the Palestinians to cooperate with the peace plan and expressed its full support for the Middle East peace process.

* * *

The de facto Bosnian Serb authorities are very close to attaining their apparent aim of achieving "ethnic purity" in territory under their control, according to the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, Tadeusz Mazowiecki. In a report on the human rights situation in the former Yugoslavia, he said non-Serbs had been subjected to unrelenting terrorization and discrimination. As a result, virtually none of them wished to remain in northern Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Bosnian Serb authorities seemed to have slowed down the last stages of the exodus, he continued. Among their motives might be a wish to retain some non-Serbs for forced labour, and to have people for inclusion in negotiated population exchanges. While there were criminal gangs operating in the Banja Luka area, much evidence suggested that the authorities were personally and directly responsible for the massive human rights abuses which had taken place.

The Special Rapporteur called on the Bosnian Serb authorities to cease immediately all practices of "ethnic cleansing", to provide adequate protection to all groups subjected to discrimination and to facilitate the restitution of property. Those responsible for crimes must be brought to justice, and conditions created for the safe return of all displaced persons and refugees.

* * *

The Security Council should extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for six months to 31 January 1996, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report dated 19 July, he said the situation in southern Lebanon remained tense and volatile, citing the continuation of the Israeli occupation and attacks by groups opposed to it.

(more)

While there had been no progress towards the implementation of UNIFIL's mandate, the Force contributed to stability in the area and to the protection of its inhabitants.

The Secretary-General said he intended to reduce UNIFIL's overall strength by 10 per cent by the spring of 1996. The Force Commander's headquarters staff would be cut by 20 per cent. Engineer support would be consolidated and the infantry battalions would be reduced slightly. Such streamlining would lead to savings of $10 million per year without affecting the Force's operational capacity. He noted that unpaid assessments to the UNIFIL Special Account currently amounted to $211 million.

* * *

The final session of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks aimed at preventing international conflicts over fishing on the high seas began today at Headquarters. The two-week Conference is expect to conclude a global treaty which would legally bind countries to conserve and sustainably manage fish stocks and settle disputes peacefully.

The Conference has before it a 48-article draft text, based on negotiations which began in July 1993. It includes general principles to guide coastal and distant-water-fishing States in fulfilling their conservation and management duties under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Those duties include measures to eliminate overfishing and ensure long-term sustainability of fish stocks.

In an address to the Conference, Canada's Minister for Fisheries and Oceans, Brian Tobin, stressed the need for a legally-binding treaty with compulsory dispute settlement to protect threatened resources. Failure to control the massive fishing power deployed on the high seas would lead to destructive overfishing, depleted resources, human misery and conflict among States. Canada would strenuously oppose any weakening of the draft text, he added.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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25 July 1995

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General briefs Security Council on his recent travels in Europe and Africa; reiterates importance of UNPROFOR presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

* Secretary-General expresses sorrow and shock at Tel Aviv bus bombing; pledges continued United Nations support for Middle East peace process.

* Special Representative Akashi condemns latest Bosnian Serb offensive against Zepa; demands end to attacks against civilians and immediate access for humanitarian organizations.

* UNPROFOR Force Commander discusses evacuation of civilians from Zepa with Bosnian Serb military leader, amid reports town's defenders have agreed to surrender.

* International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia issues arrest warrants for Bosnian Serb leaders on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity.

* High Commissioner for Human Rights updates Economic and Social Council on recent developments in former Yugoslavia, Nigeria and Chechnya.

* International Law Commission concludes forty-seventh session in Geneva, having made progress on draft code of crimes against peace and security of mankind.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today reiterated the importance of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He said the United Nations could not continue to offer humanitarian assistance to more than two million refugees and displaced persons without that presence. He made those comments to correspondents after briefing the Security Council on his recent travels in Europe and Africa, and on the meeting on the

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Bosnian crisis in London on Friday.

Regarding the "double key" arrangement for the use of air power, the Secretary-General said he was awaiting the outcome of today's meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Council. He added that he was in daily contact with the NATO Secretary-General with a view to reinforcing cooperation between the two Organizations and streamlining the double key approach.

* * *

The Secretary-General expressed sorrow and shock following yesterday's terrorist attack on a commuter bus in Tel Aviv, Israel. He described the bombing as a vicious act of violence.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali said he was encouraged by the determination of Israeli and Palestinian leaders to continue the peace process. The United Nations would exert all possible efforts to support the forces of peace in the region, he stressed, especially by providing economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people.

* * *

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi has strongly condemned the latest Bosnian Serb offensive against the safe area of Zepa. He said civilians there were being subjected to an onslaught of artillery, tank and mortar fire, and had very little medical care. Only two humanitarian convoys had gained access in the last two months and food stocks were exhausted.

Mr. Akashi demanded that the Bosnian Serb leadership refrain from any further action that would threaten the safety of the civilian population of Zepa. He demanded immediate and unhindered access for humanitarian organizations. He also called on the Bosnian Serbs to permit the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to evacuate vulnerable non-combatants who so wished.

* * *

There were reports today that Bosnian Serb forces had entered Zepa and found the town to be deserted, according to a United Nations spokesman. He said the civilian population and the town's defenders might have fled towards the north-east. However, the Bosnian Government denied reports that a surrender agreement had been reached. The Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, met today with Bosnian Serb military commander Ratko Mladic to discuss the evacuation of civilians from Zepa.

Fighting in the Bihac pocket moderated yesterday and again today, the spokesman continued. He called attention to the humanitarian situation in Bihac, noting that the Croatian Serbs had prevented relief supplies from entering the pocket. However, conditions in Sarajevo had improved somewhat with the arrival of several convoys in recent days. Some 500 metric tons of relief supplies

(more)

reached the Bosnian capital today.

* * *

The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia has issued warrants for the arrest of the leaders of the Bosnian and Croatian Serbs, accusing them of war crimes. Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and army commander Ratko Mladic were charged with genocide and crimes against humanity. Those charges arose from atrocities perpetrated against civilians throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, from the sniping campaign against civilians in Sarajevo, and from the taking of peace-keepers as hostages and the use of them as human shields. Croatian Serb leader Milan Martic was charged in connection with the firing of cluster-bombs into Zagreb last May. In all, 24 warrants were issued by the Tribunal.

Prosecutor Richard Goldstone said the charges illustrated a consistent prosecution strategy -- the investigation and indictment of leaders in the former Yugoslavia who were suspected of being responsible, either directly or indirectly, for widespread and serious violations of international humanitarian law. That strategy included the investigation of lower-level persons directly involved in carrying out the crimes in order to build effective cases against the leaders who were party to the overall planning and organization of those crimes.

* * *

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso, today appealed for an end to human rights violations in the former Yugoslavia. He told the Economic and Social Council in Geneva that Bosnian Serb attacks on safe areas were a matter of great concern, citing reports of executions of soldiers and civilians, ethnic cleansing and rapes. He stressed that United Nations human rights operations in the former Yugoslavia would continue to do all they could to assist the victims, verify the facts and improve the situation.

Mr. Ayala Lasso went on to say that his Office was in direct contact with the Nigerian Government regarding the recent judgements against 40 citizens, including former President Olusegun Obasanjo. He expressed the hope that the Government would cooperate effectively with United Nations human rights mechanisms and respect its international obligations.

The High Commissioner also expressed concern about human rights violations in Checheya. He noted that he had sent a mission to the Russian Federation to meet with the Foreign Minister and other Government representatives. For the moment, his Office was trying to sponsor consultations with a view to finding a way to respond to the situation in Chechnya.

* * *

The International Law Commission has concluded its forty-seventh session

in Geneva. During the session, the Commission made progress on a draft code of crimes against the peace and security of mankind, and on the issues of State responsibility and liability for the injurious consequences of acts not prohibited by international law. It also dealt with the law and practice relating to reservations to treaties, and the issue of State succession and its impact on the nationality of natural and legal persons.

The Commission was established by the General Assembly in 1947 to promote the codification and progressive development of international law in areas where customary law did not exist or had not sufficiently evolved. Its expert members, who represent the world's principal legal systems, are assigned as Special Rapporteurs to propose work programmes and draft articles.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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26 July 1995

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General supports NATO decision on use of air power to deter Bosnian Serb attacks on Gorazde; delegates authority in respect of air strikes to UNPF Commander.

+ Security Council strongly condemns Bosnian Serb offensive against safe area of Zepa; demands Serbs withdraw from Zepa and Srebrenica.

+ UNPROFOR reports Bosnian Government has not formally surrendered Zepa; sends 60-strong team to assist in evacuation of civilians.

+ Secretary-General condemns bomb attack against Paris Metro station and conveys condolences to French people.

+ UNHCR issues revised appeal for $263 million to assist refugees and returnees in Africa's Great Lakes Region in 1995.

+ Voter identification resumes in Western Sahara after Deputy Special Representative meets with Moroccan Government and POLISARIO.

+ United Kingdom Permanent Representative says United Nations has moved to centre of world stage in last five years; notes numerous successes in peace-keeping and social fields.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed full support for the decision taken last night by the North Atlantic Council regarding the use of air power to deter Bosnian Serb attacks on Gorazde. In a statement issued today, he said he agreed with NATO's conclusion that an attack on Gorazde should be met by a firm and decisive response, including through air strikes.

In order to streamline decision-taking within the United Nations chain of command, the Secretary-General today delegated authority in respect of NATO

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air strikes, which he had hitherto retained himself, to the Commander of United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF), General Bernard Janvier. Meanwhile, Special Representative Yasushi Akashi delegated the necessary authority in respect of close air support, which is the use of air power to defend United Nations personnel. General Janvier was authorized to delegate that authority further to the Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) when operational circumstances so required.

The Secretary-General expressed deep concern at current attacks on Sarajevo and the Bihac pocket, and noted that the North Atlantic Council had asked the NATO Military Authorities, in consultation with the UNPF, to formulate proposals on the possible use of air power in those situations also. In furtherance of cooperation between the two Organizations, he instructed Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations Kofi Annan and General Janvier to travel to Brussels for consultations with NATO on the operational modalities for implementing the North Atlantic Council's decision.

* * *

The Security Council last night restated in the strongest possible terms its condemnation of the Bosnian Serb offensive against the safe area of Zepa. In a statement by its President, Delmer Urbizo Panting (Honduras), the Council demanded that the Bosnian Serbs withdraw from both Zepa and Srebrenica.

The Council expressed support for the efforts of UNPROFOR and international humanitarian agencies to achieve the safe evacuations of civilians wishing to leave Zepa. It demanded that UNPROFOR and those agencies be given immediate and unhindered access to the population of the area. In particular, the Council demanded unhindered access for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), so that it could register and visit detainees.

* * *

The Bosnian Government has still not formally surrendered Zepa today, and retains military control of part of the enclave, according to a United Nations spokesman. However, the Government has asked UNPROFOR to assist in the evacuation of civilians to central Bosnia and Herzegovina. Over 1,100 women, children and elderly persons have reached Government-controlled territory, and thousands more may require transport to join them. A 60-strong UNPROFOR team today left Sarajevo for Zepa to assist in the evacuation effort.

Meanwhile, European Union mediator Carl Bildt today attended a Contact Group meeting in London. Participants discussed Mr. Bildt's talks with

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic on the possible recognition of Bosnia and Herzegovina by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in exchange for some sanctions relief.

* * *

The Secretary-General expressed deep shock at news of yesterday's bomb attack in the Paris Metro, which killed at least seven people. He condemned such acts of indiscriminate violence in the strongest terms and presented his condolences to the French people.

* * *

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has issued a revised appeal for $263 million on behalf of the Great Lakes Region of Africa. The agency reduced the 1995 appeal from $292 million, having received only 40 per cent of that figure by mid-year. Of the $130 million in available funds, it has already spent almost $121 million.

UNHCR's programmes in the Region are aimed at more than 2 million refugees from Rwanda and Burundi and some 150,000 returnees. Most of the refugees are living in sprawling camps in Zaire and Tanzania. Others are in smaller camps in Burundi and Uganda.

* * *

The Moroccan Government and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO) today resumed the voter identification process for the referendum in Western Sahara at six centres, according to a United Nations spokesman. The resumption was made possible after Deputy Special Representative Erik Jensen met with the two sides in Rabat and Tindouf last week. The process was suspended one month ago after more than 45,000 voters had been identified.

* * *

The United Nations has moved to the centre of the world stage in the last five years and has had many successes in maintaining peace and security, United Kingdom Permanent Representative Sir David Hannay said today. He told correspondents at Headquarters that much of the criticism of the Organization was facile. While it was going through a difficult patch, the number of problems that had to be addressed at the international level was increasing, not decreasing. He noted that one third of all the resolutions adopted in the last fifty years had been adopted since 1990.

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Speaking on the eve of his retirement, Sir David highlighted the Organization's role in reversing Iraq's aggression against Kuwait and in the follow-up to the Gulf War. At no time in this century had aggression been reversed at such low cost in terms of human and material loss. However, the "heavy shade" of Bosnia and Herzegovina had made some people forget that achievement. There had been other important successes over the past five years, including the peace-keeping operations in Cambodia, Mozambique and El Salvador. Lives had been saved, elections held and human rights protected.

Sir David also called attention to "non-Council" successes: the 1990 Children's Summit, which pushed many countries to pay more attention to children's rights; the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development, which set the international community on the road to environmental protection; the 1994 Conference on Population and Development, which addressed an enormously sensitive but very important problem; and the establishment of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs. However, the Organization should be more sparing in the use of summits, or "the currency gets devalued".

The United Nations Operation in Somalia had ultimately been a failure, but one from which useful lessons could be drawn, he continued. The Rwandan tragedy was "a blot on all our lives", but the Organization had received a lot of unwarranted blame for it. The Bosnian crisis was enormously complex, but many United Nations objectives had been attained: the conflict had been contained geographically; humanitarian supplies had been delivered to millions of people; and the peace process had been sustained. He stressed the importance of United Nations reform, particularly in the areas of finance and management, concluding that the Organization must "adapt or perish".

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ED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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27 July 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* UNPROFOR Force Commander oversees evacuation of civilians from Zepa; Gorazde and Bihac reported to be calm, but fighting continues in Sarajevo.

* United States welcomes Secretary-General's delegation of authority regarding use of air power in Bosnia and Herzegovina; stresses international community's resolve to oppose Bosnian Serb aggression.

* Security Council Committee appeals for information on violations of mandatory arms embargo against Rwanda.

* Economic and Social Council adopts 59 resolutions and decisions on human rights, including right to development and rights of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities.

* Working Group on Indigenous Populations holds thirteenth session in Geneva.

* * *

The Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, today returned to Zepa to oversee the orderly evacuation of civilians from the enclave, according to a spokesman for the Organization. A total of 4,400 people have been, or are being, evacuated. Some 2,500 of them have already crossed the confrontation lines into Government-controlled areas in central Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Meanwhile, the situation in Gorazde remained quiet, with no troop movements in the area reported. The Bihac pocket was also quiet after intense fighting over the last week. However, there was moderate fighting in Sarajevo, with 1,300 firing incidents recorded yesterday. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) convoys have been reaching the Bosnian capital with relative ease this week, but the Bosnian Serbs have now demanded that they receive a larger percentage of the aid being delivered.

In another development, Tadeusz Mazowiecki has resigned as Special Rapporteur for human rights in the former Yugoslavia because of world inaction over the fall of Srebrenica and Zepa. Mr. Mazowiecki criticized the international community for its "slow and ineffectual" response to continuing

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human rights violations.

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The United States has welcomed the Secretary-General's delegation of authority with respect to the use of air power in Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Commander of United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF). Permanent Representative Madeleine Albright said today that the decision would streamline current procedures and increase the potency of air power as a deterrent to aggression.

"NATO and the United Nations stand together in their determination to respond resolutely to further Bosnian Serb offensives," she said. "The Bosnian Serbs should now be on notice of the international community's resolve to oppose further acts of aggression."

* * *

The Security Council Committee established under resolution 918 (1994) has appealed for information on violations or suspected violations of the mandatory arms embargo against Rwanda. The appeal was addressed to governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as to individuals.

The embargo prohibits the sale or supply to Rwanda of arms and related materiel of all types, including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, and paramilitary police equipment. It also prohibits such sale or supply to persons in neighbouring States if the arms or materiel are for use in Rwanda.

* * *

The Economic and Social Council has adopted 59 resolutions and decisions on human rights, including the right to development and the rights of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities. Those measures dealt with the human rights situations in the former Yugoslavia, Cambodia, Somalia, Cuba, southern Lebanon, Iran, Zaire, Haiti, Equatorial Guinea, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan, Burundi and Rwanda.

Earlier in the week, the Council adopted resolutions and decisions on crime prevention and criminal justice, and narcotic drugs. The resolutions dealt with guidelines for the prevention of urban crime, a code of ethics for public office holders, and a recommendation that a world conference be held in 1998 on prevention of trafficking in narcotic drugs.

The Council also heard a statement by Gertrude Mongella, Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women. She said the Beijing Conference would exceed all expectations in terms of size, the breadth of issues addressed and the mobilization of support for equal rights for women. The many non-governmental organizations attending would add depth and impetus to the proceedings, she added.

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The Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities' Working Group on Indigenous Populations is holding its thirteenth session. Every year, more than 600 representatives of governments, United Nations bodies and indigenous organizations gather in Geneva to discuss the concerns of indigenous peoples. The Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations has enabled 52 indigenous representatives to attend this year's session.

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TED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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28 July 1995

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council extends UNIFIL mandate for six months; urges parties in southern Lebanon to put end to acts of violence against Force.

* Under-Secretary-General Annan and General Janvier report extremely positive talks with NATO regarding use of air power in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

* UNCRO expresses alarm at Croatian troop build-up in Bosnia and Herzegovina; fears military action in Croatia within days.

* Secretary-General recommends Security Council extend UNMIH mandate through February 1996; says Haiti should have elected institutions and functioning security system by then.

* Special Representative for Tajikistan to hold consultations on comprehensive political settlement in Moscow and Dushanbe.

* High Commissioner for Human Rights expresses regret at resignation of Tadeusz Mazowiecki as Special Rapporteur for former Yugoslavia.

* Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination to hold forty-seventh session in Geneva from 31 July to 18 August.

* UNIFEM Director to light peace torch in Durban on Pan-African Women's Day.

* * *

The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for six months to 31 January 1996. The Council condemned the increase in acts of violence against the Force and urged the parties in southern Lebanon to put an end to them. It took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 1,006 (1995).

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The Council concurred with the Secretary-General's decision to streamline UNIFIL, stressing that the 10 per cent in the Force's strength would not affect its operational capacity. It requested him to continue consultations with the Lebanese Government and other parties concerned with the implementation of today's resolution and to report thereon.

In a complementary statement by President Delmer Urbizo Panting (Honduras), the Council reaffirmed its commitment to Lebanon's full sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity within its internationally recognized boundaries. In that context, it asserted that any State shall refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations.

The Council stressed the urgent need for the implementation of resolution 425 (1978) in all its aspects. It reiterated its full support for the Taif Agreement and for the Lebanese Government's efforts to consolidate peace, national unity and security, while successfully carrying out the reconstruction process. The Council expressed concern over the continuing violence in southern Lebanon and regret at the loss of civilian life, and urged all parties to exercise restraint.

* * *

The Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Kofi Annan, and the Commander of United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF), General Bernard Janvier, today had "extremely positive" talks with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) regarding the use of air power in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They discussed operational modalities for implementing the North Atlantic Council's decision that a Bosnian Serb attack on Gorazde should be met by a firm and decisive response.

Mr. Annan told correspondent in Brussels that discussions would now continue at the military levels between the United Nations and NATO commanders directly concerned. "I leave Brussels with a renewed sense of partnership with NATO in pursuing our common endeavours, which aim to fulfil the international community's objective of a peaceful and durable settlement of the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina," he said. He added that peace-keeping was not an end in itself -- peace-keepers offered space and time for negotiations to move the diplomatic process forward.

* * *

The United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) today expressed alarm at a Croatian build-up of 8,000 to 10,000 troops in the Livno area of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It could not confirm reports that the town of Bosanska Grahovo had fallen to the Croatian forces, cutting off the main supply road linking Knin to Bosnian Serb territory. Some 5,000 Serb civilians were said to be fleeing north from the conflict area.

(more)

UNCRO also voiced fears that military action might be initiated in Croatia itself within days. It said that the Croatian Army had been highly active in Sector North and that local Serbs were mobilizing. Troops were also being concentrated and mobilized in Sector South.

Meanwhile, the evacuation of over 4,000 civilians from Zepa was completed yesterday, according to UNPROFOR. Negotiations between the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Serbs on an "all for all" exchange of prisoners ended early this morning without any agreement, but resumed later in the day. There was intense shelling on the northern confrontation line of the Bihac pocket, while there were moderate levels of activity in Sarajevo. A French peace-keeper was wounded when his observation post was hit by a tank round during a firefight south of the Bosnian capital.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the Security Council extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) until the end of February 1996. Security Council resolution 940 (1994) established the objective of completing the Mission's mandate by that time.

In a report dated 24 July, the Secretary-General said UNMIH had made significant progress towards achieving its goals since taking over from the Multinational Force. It should be able to maintain a secure and stable environment throughout the current election period and the forthcoming election presidential elections, he continued. It was reasonable to hope that Haiti would have duly elected institutions and a functioning security system by February 1996.

The Secretary-General expressed the hope that all concerned in Haiti would draw on the experience of the June legislative and local elections and correct organizational mistakes and shortcomings in the election process. It was imperative that that process lead to a stable transition to a newly elected Government. He also appealed for contributions to the voluntary fund to support the international police monitoring programme and assist with the creation of an adequate police force in Haiti.

* * *

The Special Representative for Tajikistan, Ramiro Piriz-Ballon, left today to undertake consultations in Moscow and Dushanbe as well as in a number of regional countries. Those consultations, which will take place until the middle of August, are in pursuance of his continuing efforts to achieve a comprehensive political settlement to the conflict in Tajikistan through the promotion of inter-Tajik negotiations.

* * *

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso, today expressed regret at the resignation of Tadeusz Mazowiecki as Special Rapporteur on human rights in the former Yugoslavia. He expressed his gratitude to Mr. Mazowiecki for his valuable contribution to the United

Nations effort to protect human rights in the region. The international community should reflect on Mr. Mazowiecki's comments related to the concept of the Special Rapporteur's mandate, he added.

* * *

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination will hold its forty-seventh session in Geneva from 31 July to 18 August. The 18-member Committee will consider the measures taken by Chad, Belarus, Mexico, New Zealand, El Salvador, Nicaragua, United Arab Emirates and Nigeria to combat racial discrimination. Those countries are among the 143 States parties to the 1969 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

* * *

A peace torch will be lit in Durban, South Africa, on 31 July and then carried through African countries affected by war to Beijing, site of the Fourth World Conference on Women. The torch will be lit by the Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) on the occasion of Pan-African Women's Day, a day dedicated to peace throughout the world.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1946
31 July 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council extends UNMIH mandate to no later than February 1996; looks forward to assumption of office by new, constitutionally elected Haitian government.

* Special Representative Akashi confers with Croatian Government and Croatian Serbs in attempt to reduce tension in western Bosnia and Herzegovina and prevent fighting in Croatia.

* Security Council says conditions do not exist for modification of sanctions regime against Libya.

* ECOWAS Heads of State call on United Nations to maintain presence in Liberia.

* Group of Experts on Public Administration and Finance begin two-week meeting at Headquarters.

* Working Group on Indigenous Populations concludes thirteenth session in Geneva.

* * *

The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) until a date not later than February 1996. The Council said it looked forward to the conclusion of the Mission's mandate at that time and to the safe, secure and orderly assumption of office by a new, constitutionally elected government. It stressed the importance of free and fair municipal, legislative and presidential elections as crucial steps in the complete consolidation of democracy in Haiti. It took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 1007 (1995).

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The Council commended UNMIH for its successful efforts to assist the Haitian Government in sustaining a secure and stable environment; protecting international personnel and key installations; establishing the conditions for holding elections; and professionalising the security forces. It commended the Haitian people for their peaceful participation in the first round of elections and called on the Government and political parties to ensure that forthcoming elections were conducted in an orderly, peaceful, free and fair manner. It expressed deep concern with irregularities in the recent elections and urged all parties to ensure that such problems were corrected in future balloting.

The Council stressed the importance of the international community's commitment to assist and support the economic, social and institutional development of Haiti. It called on States and international institutions to continue to provide assistance to the Government and people of Haiti as they consolidated the gains made towards democracy and stability.

* * *

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi has been pursuing intensive efforts to reduce tension in western Bosnia and Herzegovina and prevent renewed fighting in Croatia, according to a United Nations spokesman. To that end, he conferred urgently with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman on Saturday and with Croatian Serb leader Milan Martic on Sunday.

Mr. Akashi emerged from the meeting in Knin with a six-point agreement under which the Croatian Serbs would disengage from fighting in, or shelling of, Bosnia's Bihac pocket and allow humanitarian deliveries there. However, President Tudjman rejected the agreement, reportedly saying the conditions for the Croatian Serb withdrawal were unacceptable. Mr. Akashi wrote to the President today, explaining his understanding of the agreement in greater detail and hoping for a more positive response.

Meanwhile, mediator Thorvald Stoltenberg had meetings with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade on Saturday and with senior Croatian officials in Zagreb yesterday. He hoped the Croatian Government and the Croatian Serbs would still meet in Geneva in early August, as previously agreed.

The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) reported that the Bihac pocket was quiet today as some Croatian Serb elements were withdrawing after heavy fighting yesterday. It estimated that there were more than 10,000 Croatian and Bosnian Croat troops in western Bosnia, and said that they had shelled Croatian Serb villages over the border.

* * *

The Security Council has decided not to modify the sanctions regime imposed against Libya by resolution 748 (1992). The Council held its 120-day

review of those sanctions on Friday, and concluded that there was no agreement that the necessary conditions existed for modifying them.

* * *

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has called on the United Nations to maintain its presence in Liberia, according to Special Representative Anthony Nyakyi. That call was made by ECOWAS Heads of State at the conclusion of their Summit in Accra, Ghana, on Saturday.

The Liberian parties held talks in Monrovia prior to the ECOWAS Summit in an effort to resolve outstanding issues in the stalled peace process, but made no substantive progress. The talks were scheduled to have resumed today, but were deferred to a later date.

* * *

The Group of Experts on Public Administration and Finance today began a two-week meeting at Headquarters to lay the groundwork for the 1996 resumed fiftieth session of the General Assembly on making governments work better. Among the issues being considered are policy development, administrative restructuring, civil service reform, the role of public administration in social development, and financial management. In addition, case studies on South Africa's human resource development and Malaysia's efforts to improve public sector efficiency are being presented.

The Group comprises more than 50 experts from financial institutions and governmental and non-governmental organizations. Their recommendations will be reviewed at a resumed session of the Economic and Social Council later this year, and will serve as the basis of a report by the Secretary-General.

* * *

The Working Group on Indigenous Populations has concluded its thirteenth session in Geneva. Several participants stressed the need for a clear definition of the term "indigenous people". The representative of Bangladesh stated that such a definition would enable the Working Group to identify the world's true indigenous people and seriously address their marginalization. He warned that a procedure based on self-identification could be self-defeating, as people of dubious credentials might take advantage of it.

The representative of Brazil said he was not sure if a definition was necessary. Discussion on the issue should be held next year, after the meeting of the new working group of the Commission on Human Rights which would be responsible for further elaborating the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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DH/1947
1 August 1995

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General urgently appeals to Croatian Government and Krajina Serbs to opt for negotiations instead of war; parties to meet in Geneva on Thursday.

* NATO says it is ready to use air power to defend all Bosnian safe areas from attack by any party; expresses concern at extremely dangerous situations in Croatia and Bosnia.

* UNCRO reports continued troop build-ups in Sectors North and South; Serb aircraft attack Croatian positions on Mount Dinara.

* UNHCR appeals to governments to provide resettlement or temporary protection for additional 5,000 victims of war in former Yugoslavia.

* FAO says outlook for world cereal supplies is tighter than previously projected, after lowering 1995 production forecast by 24 million tons.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today appealed urgently to the Croatian Government and the Krajina Serb leadership to stop and reflect about the choice which now faced them. He said reports indicated that war between them was imminent, and warned that it would cause terrible casualties and vast material damage.

The Secretary-General stressed that war was not inevitable and that only negotiation would settle the conflict. The outlines of a settlement had already been identified and the international community was ready to help the parties to reach agreement. He urged them to choose that path rather than war.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

In a related development, the Croatian parties today agreed to begin open-ended discussions in Geneva on Thursday. Each side will field delegations of four civilian and military representatives. At a meeting with Special Representative Yasushi Akashi on Sunday, the Croatian Serbs accepted a six-point plan under which they would disengage from fighting in Bosnia's Bihac pocket and allow humanitarian deliveries there. Mr. Akashi today said moves were underway towards the monitoring of Croatia's international border.

* * *

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is ready to use air power to defend all of the Bosnian safe areas, NATO Secretary-General Willy Claes announced today. He said the North Atlantic Council had approved the necessary planning to deter attacks by any party on Bihac, Tuzla and Sarajevo. Last week, the Council decided that a Bosnian Serb attack on Gorazde would be met by a firm and decisive response.

Mr. Claes stressed that NATO's actions were in support of the United Nations, and were intended to assist the search for a political settlement. NATO would provide close air support to any United Nations personnel that came under attack in Bosnia and Croatia. He expressed grave concern at the extremely dangerous situations in both countries, which carried the risk of an even wider conflict. He urged all parties to exercise restraint and to desist from further military action.

* * *

The United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) today reported continued troop build-ups around Sectors North and South, and said peace-keepers were being prevented from doing their job. Forces continued to mobilize in Sector East, with both sides moving artillery into the zone of separation. There were artillery exchanges between Croatian forces in Bosnia and Serbs across the border in Sector South. This morning, three Serb fixed-wing aircraft fired rockets at Croatian positions on Mount Dinara.

Meanwhile, over 14,000 Bosnian Serb civilians have been displaced by recent Croatian offensives in western Bosnia. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been organizing assistance for them out of Banja Luka. However, there has been a dramatic reduction in fighting in the Bihac pocket following the withdrawal of some Serb troops, although an estimated 1,000 remain in the area.

The Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, met yesterday with Bosnian Serb Commander Ratko Mladic to discuss the general situation and humanitarian access to Sarajevo. Lieutenant-General Smith's helicopter was hit by small-arms fire while flying over Serb-held territory, but no one was hurt.

(more)

* * *

The UNHCR has appealed to more than 30 governments to provide resettlement or temporary protection to an additional 5,000 victims of the war in the former Yugoslavia this year. It also asked them to prepare contingency plans for up to 50,000 more should an emergency arise.

The agency said the deteriorating security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina underscored the need to "continuously adjust resettlement/temporary protection quotas and eligibility criteria". It expressed serious concern about possible future refugee movements arising from any escalation of hostilities involving Serb-held sectors of Croatia.

* * *

The outlook for world cereal supplies is tighter than previously projected, according to a report by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The FAO has revised its forecast for 1995 downward since May, mainly because of reduced forecasts for wheat and coarse grains output in the Untied States and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Total carryover stocks of cereals are now expected to fall to 262 million tons, the lowest level since 1981.

The FAO forecasts world cereal production in 1995 at 1,909 million tons, 24 million tons lower than the May forecast and 41 million tons lower than last year's harvest. The shortfall will not necessarily mean shortages in 1995/1996, but the margin of safety against a major crop failure next year is "sharply reduced". In addition to tight supplies and higher world market prices, the FAO expects food aid supplies to fall by over 20 per cent in 1995.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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2 August 1995

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* United Nations says Croatian Government and Krajina Serbs have mobilized up to 100,000 and 50,000 troops respectively.

* Special Coordinator for Sarajevo reports progress in talks on restoration of utilities.

* United Nations releases "The World's Women 1995: Trends and Statistics" for Fourth World Conference on Women.

* Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council sets August 13 as date for partial re-run of national elections; UNMIH says overall situation is secure and stable.

* Assembly of International Seabed Authority to hold third part of first session in Kingston from 7 to 18 August.

* UNHCR and World Scout Organization to sign memorandum of understanding on assisting refugees.

* * *

The United Nations today estimated that the Croatian Government had fully mobilized as many as 100,000 troops, while the Krajina Serbs had mobilized up to 50,000 troops, following the recent escalation of tension in the region. Talks between the parties were scheduled to begin in Geneva tomorrow morning under the chairmanship of mediator Thorvald Stoltenberg.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Meanwhile in Bosnia and Herzegovina, there was some fighting on the northern confrontation line of the Bihac pocket today. Bosnian Government troops were thought to be trying to retake lost ground. Zepa and Gorazde remained quiet, while the number of firing incidents in Sarajevo declined to 900 yesterday.

* * *

The Special Coordinator for Sarajevo, William Eagleton, today reported progress in negotiations with the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Serbs regarding the restoration of gas supplies to the city. The Government today reopened a valve in the section of the gas pipeline running through its territory, and the Serbs were expected to do likewise tomorrow.

* * *

The United Nations today released "The World's Women 1995: Trends and Statistics", an official report for next month's Fourth World Conference on Women. It shows that women have made significant progress in some areas since the First World Conference on Women in 1975, but highlights the need for greater efforts to achieve social, political and economic equality between the sexes.

The "World's Women 1995" focuses on country data and regional averages with a view to shaping national policies. It reflects the shift in development strategies from looking at women in isolation to looking at them in relation to men. The report covers the core areas of population and families, education, health, child-bearing, work and public life. It also deals with such topics as the media, violence against women, poverty, the environment, refugees and displaced persons, and women's participation in the United Nations.

Introducing the report at Headquarters, the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Carol Bellamy, said it provided ammunition in the struggle for full equality and for the empowerment of the world's women. The report revealed the progress made in that regard, but also highlighted many problem areas. She noted that the rate of HIV infection was increasing faster among women than among men; that 75 percent of women in southern Asia were illiterate; and that female genital mutilation still occurred in many African and in some Asian countries.

* * *

Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council has now set August 13 as the date for the partial re-run of the first round of national elections. Printed ballots have already arrived in Port-au-Prince and distribution will start tomorrow. The United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) described the overall situation in the country as "secure and stable".

(more)

In another development, a third class of cadets will graduate from Haiti's Police Academy within days, after a four-month training programme conducted by personnel from Canada, France and the United States. This will bring the number of new Haitian National Police to over 1,000. As they are deployed the Haitian Interim Police are being phased out.

* * *

The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority will hold the third part of its first session in Kingston, Jamacia, from 7 to 18 August. It is expected to focus on the composition of, and elections to, the Council of the Authority. It will also deal with the election of members of the Finance Committee and the Legal and Technical Commission; receive the final report of the Preparatory Commission for the Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea; and consider the organization of the secretariat.

The first part of the session, which began in Kingston in November 1994, was devoted to the commemoration of the establishment of the International Seabed Authority. The Assembly began its substantive work during the second part of the session, which was held from 27 February to 17 March.

* * *

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Organization of the Scout Movement will sign a memorandum of understanding tomorrow aimed at assisting refugees. The signing will take place at the World Scout Jamboree in Dronten, Netherlands. The memorandum will strengthen the relationship between the UNHCR and millions of Scouts worldwide, some of whom are currently helping refugees through innovative projects. The agency is already working with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

Scouts and Guides can help refugees by identifying unaccompanied children, assisting in refugee registration, conducting literacy courses and organizing recreational activities. They also invite refugee children to camps and provide them with "Peace Packs" -- boxes of school supplies and personal items.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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3 August 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Thorvald Stoltenberg says chances of averting war in Croatia have improved after talks between Government and Serbs in Geneva.

* UNPROFOR recalls troops from Zepa after Bosnian Serbs prevent them from carrying out peace-keeping tasks; Sarajevo remains stable despite slight increase in number of firing incidents.

* Secretary-General recommends Security Council establish international commission of inquiry in Burundi to investigate assassination of President in 1993 and subsequent massacres.

* Human rights violations in Bosnia and Herzegovina undermine entire international rights structure, Subcommission on Minorities is told.

* * *

Representatives of the Croatian Government and the Croatian Serbs met for seven hours in Geneva today in a bid to prevent all-out war in the Krajina. Talks focused on humanitarian assistance, the military situation, and economic and political cooperation. Mediator Thorvald Stoltenberg said that the parties had come closer to an agreement than he had expected and that the chances of averting war had improved. He added that a cease-fire agreement was possible.

Mr. Stoltenberg told correspondents that he would be traveling on an urgent basis to Zagreb, and then on to either Knin or Belgrade, for discussions tomorrow. Whether the Croatian parties held a second round of talks would depend on the outcome of those discussions.

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For information media—not an official record

Meanwhile, the United Nations described the situation in Croatia as extremely tense and highly volatile. Government and and Serb forces were reinforcing and consolidating their positions around Knin in Sector South, while Government troops continued their build-up around the zone of separation in Sector North. Small-arms fire was reported in Sector East this morning.

* * *

The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) has recalled its troops from Zepa, the eastern enclave which fell to the Bosnian Serbs last week, according to a spokesman for the Organization. Force Commander Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith decided to take that action because the Serbs would not permit them to patrol or carry out any useful peace-keeping tasks. Some 150 troops from France, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United Kingdom left the area in two convoys and arrived in Sarajevo this morning.

There was a slight increase in the number of firing incidents in the Bosnian capital yesterday, but the situation was otherwise stable. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that it was once more experiencing problems with humanitarian access to the city, although the situation in Gorazde had improved considerably. The Bihac pocket remained blocked, but all sides had given clearance for a convoy tomorrow.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the Security Council establish an international judicial commission of inquiry in Burundi. The commission would: establish the facts relating to the assassination of the President of Burundi in October 1993, the massacres that followed and other serious acts of violence and political crimes; recommend modalities for the trial and punishment of persons identified as being responsible for those offences; and recommend measures to prevent any repetition of such deeds and eradicate impunity in Burundi.

In a letter to the Council dated 28 July, the Secretary-General stressed that the commission would require the support of the Burundian authorities. The Government should: adopt any measures needed for it to carry out its functions with full freedom, independence and security; provide necessary information and free access to official archives; and guarantee full respect for the integrity, security and freedom of witnesses, experts and any other persons who helped the commission.

The Secretary-General proposed that the commission consist of three members appointed by him, with the United Nations Secretariat providing necessary support services.

(more)

He based his recommendations on a report by Dr. Pedro Nikken, who undertook a mission to Burundi to discuss the possible establishment of a commission of inquiry with the Government. Dr. Nikken played a central role in designing the El Salvador commission.

* * *

People are losing faith in the defence of human rights because of the unchecked violations occurring in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities has heard. Jose Bengoa, expert from Chile and Subcommission Rapporteur, said the recent resignation of the Special Rapporteur on the former Yugoslavia, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, was a challenge to the United Nations. He warned that the sense of international solidarity regarding human rights could be lost.

Asbjorn Eide, expert from Norway, said the whole international human rights structure was threatened in Bosnia. Both human rights issues and political issues should be considered in the international community's response to the situation there. If the world made distinctions between the two, it would destroy the credibility of international human rights instruments.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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4 August 1995

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Croatian Army launches major offensive against Krajina Serbs; shells UNCRO posts, killing Danish soldier; Secretary-General urges parties to stop fighting and resume negotiations.

* Special Representative voices concern for civilians and peace-keepers in Croatia; United Nations to continue to implement mandate and provide humanitarian assistance where possible.

* Conference on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks adopts global treaty by consensus to regulate fishing on high seas.

* Subcommission on Minorities begins substantive work by considering violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms worldwide.

* WFP vacates some food warehouses in Rwanda to ease overcrowding in prisons and detention centres.

* * *

The Croatian Army this morning launched a major offensive against the Krajina Serbs, shelling Knin and launching air raids near Gracac and south of Medak. Croatian troops also shelled United Nations observation posts, and a Danish peace-keeper was killed by deliberate tank fire in Sector North. Two Polish peace-keepers were injured in a separate incident. Meanwhile, the Krajina Serbs retaliated with attacks on Karlovac and Ogulin.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali expressed deep regret at the reopening of large-scale conflict, saying lives would be needlessly lost as a result of the course of action

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adopted by President Franjo Tudjman and the Croatian Government. Stressing that war would not resolve the issues at stake, he called on the Government and the Serbs to halt hostilities and return to the negotiating table.

The Secretary-General condemned the targeting of United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) positions, which had led to the death of the Danish soldier. Peace-keepers were taking no part in the conflict and should not be subjected to hostile fire by either side for any reason whatsoever, he said.

Last night, the Security Council demanded that the Croatian parties halt all military actions and exercise the utmost restraint. In a statement by its President, Nugroho Wisnumurti (Indonesia), the Council stressed that there could be no military solution to the conflict in Croatia. It called on the parties to commit themselves to the process of talks begun yesterday in Geneva and to accept the draft agreement drawn up by the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia as a basis for continuing those talks.

* * *

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi today expressed profound regret at the outbreak of hostilities in Croatia, which set back the prospects of a peaceful resolution of the conflict. He called on the parties to return to the negotiating table and pursue progress through peaceful dialogue, saying they should make every effort to avoid further bloodshed.

Mr. Akashi emphasized his concern for the civilians affected by the fighting and for the safety of United Nations personnel. He urged the responsible leaders to meet their obligations under international humanitarian law and to ensure that the human rights of the affected population were observed.

The United Nations would continue to implement its mandate wherever possible, Mr. Akashi stressed. It would maintain an active presence and continue to report to the international community. The Organization would also address the humanitarian consequences of the fighting by supporting the work of humanitarian agencies.

* * *

Acting without a vote, the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks today adopted a global Agreement to regulate fishing on the high seas. For the first time, States will be legally bound to conserve and sustainably manage high seas fisheries and settle fishing disputes peacefully.

(more)

The Agreement, which is within the framework of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, will enter into force 30 days after its ratification by 30 signatories. That process is expected to take about two years, but in the meantime States can apply the Agreement provisionally.

Conference Chairman Satya Nandan (Fiji) described the Agreement as far-sighted, bold and revolutionary in addressing the problems facing straddling and highly migratory fish stocks. It called for action at the regional, national and global levels, and was firmly based on the Law of the Sea Convention. The Agreement reinforced and secured the future of the Convention by dealing with problems raised in its implementation.

The Agreement was built on three essential pillars, Mr. Nandan said. First, it set out principles for conservation and management based on the precautionary approach and the best scientific information. Second, it assured conservation measures were adhered to and not undermined by those who fished for migratory stocks. Third, the agreement included provisions for the peaceful settlement of disputes.

* * *

The Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities has begun its substantive work by considering violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in different parts of the world. It decided last year to begin its 1995 session with that item in an effort to streamline its work and give its 26 experts time to draft resolutions.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) said there had been violent religious persecution in Viet Nam and Sudan, episodes of genocide in Burundi, and racial discrimination, institutional discrimination and improper detention of illegal immigrants in the United States. They also cited human rights abuses in Guatemala, Peru, Chile, Nigeria, Turkey, Iraq, India, Myanmar and Pakistan.

* * *

The World Food Programme (WFP) has begun emptying several food warehouses in Rwanda, so that the Government can convert them into detention centres to ease prison overcrowding. Some 50,000 people are detained in 14 prisons and 196 detention centres which have an official capacity of only 11,500. Humanitarian organizations have described living conditions in the prisons and detention centres are squalid and unsanitary.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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7 August 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council deplores Croatian Government offensive against Krajina Serbs and attacks on United Nations personnel; demands immediate end to all military action.

* UNCRO says Croatian Army controls Sectors North and South after three days of fighting; UNHCR estimates 120,000 refugees have fled towards Serb territory in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

* Security Council extends UNAVEM III mandate for six months; commends Angolan parties for commitment to peace process, but voices concern at slow pace in implementing Lusaka Protocol.

* Department of Humanitarian Affairs appeals for $102 million to assist demobilization and reintegration of former combatants in Angola.

* Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is meeting commitment to close border with Serb-controlled areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Co-Chairmen of ICFY report.

* Secretary-General says Hiroshima peace day ceremony reaffirms faith in dignity and worth of human person; stresses need for comprehensive test-ban treaty.

* * *

The Security Council has deplored the Croatian Government's decision to launch a broad military offensive and demanded that all military action in and around Croatia cease immediately. In a statement by its President, Nugroho Wisnumurti (Indonesia), late Friday night, the Council said that decision had unacceptably escalated the conflict, with the risk of further consequent attacks by whatever party.

The Council strongly condemned attacks by Croatian Government forces on United Nations personnel, which had already resulted in the death of a Danish peace-keeper. It demanded that such attacks cease immediately and that all detained personnel be released. The Council also condemned any shelling of civilians, and demanded that no military action be taken against them and that

For information media—not an official record

(more)

their human rights be fully respected. It reminded the parties of their responsibilities under international humanitarian law and reiterated that those who committed violations of it would be held individually responsible.

* * *

The Croatian Army today had effective control of Sectors North and South after continuing its offensive against the Krajina Serbs over the weekend, according to a United Nations spokesman. Some 15,000 Serb soldiers and civilians were trapped in Sector North, where the situation was described as tense.

United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF) Commander General Bernard Janvier yesterday brokered an agreement between the parties. That agreement would have permitted the Krajina Serbs to travel to Serb-controlled parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina after turning over their heavy weapons to the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO). However, it broke down today after the Croatian Army claimed that Bosnian Serb aircraft had bombed five Croatian cities. The Army also claimed that UNCRO had failed to set up weapons collection sites, but UNCRO said the Army had prevented it from doing so. This morning, coordinated attacks by the Croatian Army and the Bosnian Government's Fifth Corps cut off the road that the Serbs would have taken out of Croatia.

UNCRO reported that most of its observation posts and bases had been captured, destroyed or surrounded, mainly by the Croatian Army, but also by Krajina Serb and Bosnian Government forces. Two Czech peace-keepers were killed in Sector South yesterday when their observation post was hit in crossfire. More than 500 peace-keepers have been dislodged by the recent fighting.

Meanwhile, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that some 120,000 refugees were on the move from Sectors North and South towards Serb-controlled territory around Banja Luka in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The agency said many of those people had left with only meagre personal belongings, and was arranging convoys to supply them with humanitarian assistance.

* * *

The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) until 8 February 1996. It commended the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) for their commitment to the peace process, but expressed concern at the slow pace in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol. It urged the parties to adhere strictly to the revised timetable for the Protocol, and expected them to finalize arrangements for the establishment of quartering areas, troop disengagement and demining. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 1008 (1995).

(more)

The Council stressed the importance of the completion of the electoral process, as provided for in the Lusaka Protocol. It called on the parties to adopt a comprehensive programme for the formation of the new armed forces, and accelerate the exchange of prisoners and the repatriation of mercenaries with a view to reinforcing freedom of movement throughout Angola. It urged the parties to put an immediate end to the laying of mines and to unauthorized troop movements.

The Council requested the Secretary-General to accelerate the deployment of UNAVEM III infantry units as conditions improved, with the objective of reaching full strength as soon as possible. It urged the parties to provide the Mission with the necessary information and to ensure freedom of movement to enable it to effectively discharge its mandate. The Council noted with concern increasing levels of violence perpetrated by unaffiliated groups, and called on all parties to seek to control and disarm those threats to the peace process. It authorized the Secretary-General to increase the strength of UNAVEM III's human rights unit as appropriate.

* * *

The Department of Humanitarian Affairs today appealed for $102 million for a revised assistance programme to demobilize and reintegrate former combatants in Angola. It asked donors to support that vital component of the Angolan peace process launched in November 1994.

In accordance with agreements between the Angolan Government and UNITA, the demobilization will take place in stages over two years. In the initial stage, UNITA troops will be disarmed, assembled in quartering areas, and then incorporated in a the new national army. Some 100,000 combatants from both sides will then be demobilized and reintegrated into civilian society.

* * *

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is continuing to meet its commitment to close its border with areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina controlled by Bosnian Serb forces, according to the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. In a report on the operations of the Conference's Mission to the Federal Republic, they also concluded that there had been no commercial transshipments across the border between the two countries in the last 30 days. The report was transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Security Council in a letter dated 3 August.

The Co-Chairmen noted that 185 international personnel were currently on duty with the Mission, assuring 24-hour manning of the 19 border crossing points. Conditions for the observers had improved considerably in July, when 13 portacabin containers loaned by the United Nations were installed at the crossing points. Cooperation with the authorities of the Federal Republic continued to

be good. The Mission continued to enjoy full freedom of movement there, although observers had been verbally threatened by local people on eight different occasions.

* * *

The Hiroshima peace day ceremony commemorated the resolve, enshrined in the United Nations Charter, to reaffirm faith in the dignity and worth of the human person, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He made that comment yesterday, in a message to the ceremony delivered by the Special Representative for Public Affairs, Joseph Verner Reed.

The introspection compelled by the horror of Hiroshima had made the world a safer place, the Secretary-General said. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons had been validated in perpetuity. Progress towards a comprehensive test-ban treaty must be built upon, and non-nuclear-weapon States must be provided with legally-binding international security guarantees.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1952
8 August 1995

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General says tensions remain high in Croatia and hostilities could continue; reports Croatian Army used peace-keepers and Serb prisoners as human shields.

* United Nations says Croatian offensive has created 150,000 refugees; hopes to secure agreement on safe passage for people still trapped by fighting.

* President of Disarmament Conference stresses need for progress in talks on nuclear-test-ban treaty; Germany voices concern at French decision to conduct nuclear tests in Pacific.

* * *

Tensions remain high following the Croatian offensive in Sectors North and South and the possibility of continuing hostilities cannot be ruled out, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a letter to the Security Council President dated August 7, he said that a refugee crisis of major proportions had already started and that the United Nations was attempting to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population.

The Secretary-General noted that the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) had suffered a total of 18 casualties, all of which had been protested. Three peace-keepers -- two Czechs and a Dane -- had been killed, and he conveyed his condolences to the Governments and people of the Czech Republic and Denmark. He also noted that Croatian Army units had twice used peace-keepers and Serb prisoners as human shields as they conducted their attacks. Those incidents had been vigorously protested by the United Nations and the troop-contributors concerned.

On 6 August in Geneva, Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic had expressed confidence that the Croatian military operation would be completed within 24 hours, the Secretary-General said. He had also indicated that Croatia would investigate incidents in which United Nations troops had been attacked and given assurances about humanitarian access to civilians displaced by the fighting.

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The fighting in Croatia has created an estimated 150,000 refugees, a United Nations spokesman said today. That figure included 30,000 who had arrived in the Banja Luka area of Bosnia and Herzegovina or who had moved on into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). A large number of people were still trapped in Sectors North and South, including 30,000 in Topusko. There were also indications of movements out of the Bihac pocket, possibly by supporters of rebel Muslim leader Fikret Abdic.

The United Nations and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) were focusing on negotiating safe passage for people trapped by the fighting, and hoped that an agreement might be concluded by the end of the day. However, Croatia had not given permission for relief supplies to enter Bihac or Banja Luka through its territory, and the UNHCR hoped that convoys could reach those areas tomorrow from the east. There were reports that Croatian forces had fired on refugees from the ground and the air, but the agency was unable to systematically interview refugees to evaluate those reports.

* * *

The President of the Conference on Disarmament, Shirchinjavyn Yumjav (Mongolia), has stressed the need for progress in multilateral negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty. As the Conference began the third part of its third session in Geneva, he said a number of substantive issues must be resolved as soon as possible. They included scope, entry into force, withdrawal, verification and institutional issues.

The representative of Germany said a convention prohibiting the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices would strengthen the future role of the Conference. He also expressed concern about France's decision to conduct nuclear tests in the Pacific. Germany had always held the view that nuclear test moratoria were most important for successful negotiations in Geneva.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1953
9 August 1995

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* United Nations secures agreement on safe passage for Croatian Serbs out of Sector North; situation in Sector East appears to be stabilizing.

* Rwanda says exiled military elements are preparing to launch cross-border attack from refugee camps in Zaire; Security Council should exempt Rwandese Government from arms embargo.

* On International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples, Secretary-General says indigenous peoples need more access to decision-making processes at national and international levels.

* Subcommission on Minorities expresses grave concern at massive violations of human rights of civilians in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

* Assembly of International Seabed Authority begins final part of first session in Kingston; President urges early agreement on composition of Council.

* Major-General Phillip Sibanda of Zimbabwe to succeed Major-General Chris Garuba of Nigeria as UNAVEM III Force Commander.

* * *

The United Nations today secured an agreement providing safe passage out of Sector North for up to 45,000 Croatian Serbs, according to a spokesman for the Organization. Before leaving the Sector, Serb soldiers must turn over all weapons from rifles to tanks at United Nations collection points at Glina and Topusko. The first batch of 1,000 refugees left Topusko this afternoon, bound for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) via the Zagreb-Belgrade highway.

Some 15,000 refugees had been trapped by heavy fighting in the town of Dvor, but the situation there was quiet this afternoon, the spokesman said. All Serb fighters in the area were thought to have escaped into Bosnia. Meanwhile, the Bosnian Army's Fifth Corps was pulling back from Croatian territory. Yesterday, United Nations peace-keepers saw two MiG-21 aircraft flying over Dvor and heard explosions. Eight minutes before, two armed MiGs were seen taking off from Pleso airbase near Zagreb.

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For information media—not an official record

The refugee exodus from Sector South was almost complete, the spokesman noted, although 800 Serbs remained at the United Nations compound in Knin. Negotiations were underway for their safe passage, but Croatian officials were insisting on interrogating all males in the compound and the United Nations would not accept that condition. The situation in Sector East appeared to be stabilizing, despite sporadic shelling and small-arms fire today.

* * *

Rwanda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Manzi Bakuramutsa, today said that exiled elements of the former Rwandese military were preparing to attack his country from refugee camps in Zaire. He told correspondents at Headquarters that those elements were receiving external assistance and were preventing refugees from returning home. The mandatory arms embargo imposed by Security Council resolution 918 (1994) should be strengthened, but should not apply to his Government. It needed weapons to defend Rwanda, not to attack other countries or its own population.

Mr. Bakuramutsa said his Government would welcome Rwandese refugees returning from the camps, but those who had committed genocide must be brought to justice. He stressed that reconciliation and genocide did not go together -- justice had to come first. Every action taken by the Government was transparent and in good faith, he added.

The international community was tired of trying to help Rwandese refugees because it had not found a solution to the problem, he went on to say. It had withdrawn from Somalia because there had been no solution there, and was ready to withdraw from Liberia for the same reason.

* * *

Indigenous peoples need enhanced access to decision-making processes at the national and international levels, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a message on the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People, he said laws and programmes were needed to help solve

the problems they faced, and to allow them to celebrate their traditions, talent and diversity. Describing indigenous peoples as a precious asset, he underlined the importance of supporting their struggle for rights and opportunities.

The International Day of the World's Indigenous People was celebrated for the first time today, in the first year of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995-2004). The celebration also coincided with the United Nations Year for Tolerance and the Organization's fiftieth anniversary.

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The Day was marked at Headquarters by a "sacred pipe" ceremony, with songs and dances honouring indigenous peoples. The main theme of the ceremony was "Sharing a Vision of Peace".

* * *

The Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities has unanimously adopted a resolution expressing grave concern at the massive violations of the human rights of civilians in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It decided to transmit the resolution immediately to the Secretary-General, and called on him urgently to take all necessary measures to stop those violations and secure the human rights of the Bosnian people.

The Subcommission also expressed solidarity with, and support of, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, former Special Rapporteur on human rights in the former Yugoslavia. It cited "his moral and courageous stand and his resignation in protest of the perpetuation of gross violations in Bosnia and Herzegovina".

* * *

The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority has begun the third and final part of its first session in Kingston, Jamaica, hearing an appeal by its President to resolve problems relating to the composition of the Authority's Council. President Hasjim Djalal (Indonesia), reporting on inter-sessional consultations he held in New York in May, said those problems could be overcome through compromise. Consultations revealed a trend towards general agreement in certain areas, while an exchange of views would facilitate mutual understanding in others.

The Council will consist of 36 members from five groups of States. Membership will reflect four main elements: States with a special interest in deep seabed mining of minerals, such as large producers of those minerals; pioneer investors in seabed activities; developing countries with special needs, such as land-locked countries; and an equitable geographical representation.

* * *

The Secretary-General has appointed Major-General Phillip Valerio Sibanda of Zimbabwe as the next Force Commander of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III). He will replace Major-General Chris Abutu Garuba of Nigeria, who will complete his tour of duty with the Mission on 1 October and return to national service. Major-General Sibanda is expected to arrive at his duty station in Angola in the second half of September.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1954
10 August 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council demands Croatian Government cease all military actions and respect rights of local Serb population; condemns attacks on United Nations personnel and demands those responsible be brought to justice.

* Security Council expresses concern at reports of grave violations of international humanitarian law in Srebrenica; demands Bosnian Serbs permit ICRC access to all detainees.

* Serbs stream out of Krajina region as cease-fire continues to hold; Croat harassment of refugees ends after Special Representative meets with Government official.

* Chairman of Special Commission welcomes Iraqi declaration on biological weapons programme, but sees shortcomings and contradictions in it.

* Secretary-General reports no progress towards resolving Georgian/Abkhaz conflict; appoints resident deputy to Special Envoy to assist efforts aimed at comprehensive settlement.

* Under-Secretary-General Ji says international community must focus more attention on public administration and management.

* * *

The Security Council today strongly deplored the broad military offensive launched by the Croatian Government on 4 August and demanded an immediate cessation of all military actions. The Council demanded that the Government: respect fully the rights of the local Serb population, including the right to remain, leave or return in safety; allow access to that population by international humanitarian organizations; and create conditions conducive to the return of persons who had left their homes. It took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 1009 (1995).

The Council strongly condemned the unacceptable acts by Croatian Government forces against United Nations personnel, including those which had resulted in the deaths of one Danish and two Czech peace-keepers. It demanded that the

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Government fully respect the status of United Nations personnel, refrain from attacks against them and bring to justice those responsible for such attacks.

The Council urged the parties and others concerned to exercise maximum restraint in and around Sector East and requested the Secretary-General to keep the situation there under review. Reiterating its call for a negotiated settlement, it urged the Croatian Government to resume talks under the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. It requested the Secretary-General to report within three weeks on the implementation of today's resolution and on the implications of the situation for the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO).

* * *

In a second meeting today, the Council expressed deep concern at reports of grave violations of international humanitarian law in and around Srebrenica and at the fact that many of the area's former inhabitants could not be accounted for. It also expressed concern at the plight of civilians and other persons protected under international humanitarian law originating in the Zepa area.

By unanimously adopting resolution 1010 (1995), the Council demanded that the Bosnian Serbs allow the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other international agencies immediate access to persons displaced from Srebrenica and Zepa. It also demanded that the Bosnian Serbs permit ICRC representatives to visit and register any persons detained against their will, including any members of the Bosnian Army.

The Council demanded that the Bosnian Serbs fully respect the rights of all detainees and urged that they be released. It reiterated that all those who committed violations of international humanitarian law would be held individually responsible for them.

The Permanent Representative of the United States, Madeleine Albright, told the Council that some 10,000 civilians from Srebrenica and 3,000 from Zepa were missing and unaccounted for. Some were missing, some were in detention, and some were most certainly dead. People had been beaten, raped and murdered on the instruction of the Bosnian Serb leadership, she said.

* * *

The cease-fire agreement between the Croatian Government and the Croatian Serbs continued to hold today, according to a United Nations spokesman. He said a steady stream of refugees and disarmed soldiers was leaving the Krajina region for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) via the Zagreb-Belgrade highway. However, Croats last night harassed Serbs in Sisak as they

made their way to the highway. Some people were reportedly dragged from their cars and beaten, and one woman bled to death from wounds to the head.

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi met with a senior Croatian Government official this morning to ask for more effective efforts to maintain order, and no further incidents were reported during the day, the spokesman continued. Mr. Akashi also called for greater freedom of movement for United Nations personnel throughout the conflict area, especially around Knin. Meanwhile, some 5,000 Serbs had reached Sector East via the main highway this morning. As many of 50,000 might have reached Serbia by different routes, while 50,000 more were passing through Serb-controlled parts of Bosnia. Another 25,000 Serbs were thought to be waiting to leave Sector North by the highway.

* * *

The Chairman of the United Nations Special Commission, Rolf Ekeus, today welcomed Iraq's declaration that it had developed biological weapons, but said there were certain shortcomings in it. He told correspondents at Headquarters that Iraq had recently admitted to having produced biological warfare agents before 1991. However, it had not produced evidence to support the claim that those agents had been destroyed.

Mr. Ekeus said the fact that Iraq had denied the existence of its biological weapons programme more than four years after the adoption of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) created a "credibility problem". There were also apparent contradictions in the declaration. Iraq now claimed to have ended its biological programme at a time when it was developing missiles for chemical weapons. In addition, it had not admitted developing systems to deliver biological agents. Furthermore, at least five metric tons of biological growth media had not been accounted for.

Iraq wanted the Security Council to immediately implement paragraph 22 of resolution 687 (1991), thus lifting the oil embargo against it, and was threatening to end its cooperation with the Special Commission, Mr. Ekeus continued. He said that the Commission needed time to verify the declaration, and added that Iraq "shouldn't slam the door when we are so close to the end".

* * *

There has been no progress towards resolving the Georgian/Abkhaz conflict, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report dated 7 August, he said both sides continued to take positions that could not be bridged: the Georgian side believed that it had made as many concessions of principle as it could, whereas the Abkhaz side believed its position had been consistent from the beginning and was unwilling to change.

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Pursuing a political solution to the conflict required appropriate support and resources, the Secretary-General continued. He had thus decided to appoint a resident deputy to the Special Envoy to assist him in achieving a comprehensive settlement based on three essential elements: the safe and early return of refugees and internally displaced persons; maintenance of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia; and a special status for Abkhazia.

* * *

The international community should focus more attention on public administration, including management issues, the Under-Secretary-General for Development Support and Management Services, Chaozhu Ji, said today. He made that comment in a briefing on the work of the Group of Experts on Public Administration and Finance. The Group is currently meeting at Headquarters to lay the groundwork for the 1996 resumed fiftieth session of the General Assembly on making governments work better.

The Group of Experts sought to heighten international awareness of the key role of public administration in development, Mr. Ji continued. Better public administration facilitated progress towards market-oriented economies, helped countries deal with globalization and created an enabling environment for the development of the private sector. The Group also sought to strengthen the United Nations system's role in capacity-building and to tailor country-specific approaches to public administration.

Mr. Ji added that the resumption of the General Assembly's fiftieth session should be seen in the context of the continuum of world conferences organized by the United Nations. Follow-up to those conferences was primarily the responsibility of Member States, and public administration cut across all the issues dealt with by them.

The Group of Experts on Public Administration and Finance comprises more than 50 experts from financial institutions and governmental and non-governmental organizations. Their recommendations will be reviewed at a resumed session of the Economic and Social Council later this year, and will serve as a basis of a report by the Secretary-General.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1955
11 August 1995

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Special Representative Akashi discusses future mandate of UNCRO with Croatian parties; overall situation in Croatia remains stable despite tension in Sector East.

* Secretary-General warns tensions on Rwanda's borders could erupt in violence at any time; calls for urgent action by Government, neighbouring States and international community.

* Department of Humanitarian Affairs to convene meeting of donors in Geneva with view to improving conditions in Rwandan prisons.

* Secretary-General proposes appointment of Rubens Ricupero as head of UNCTAD for four-year term beginning 15 September.

* Special Adviser de Soto to represent Secretary-General at talks with Government of Myanmar in Yangon next week.

* * *

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi is holding consultations with Croatian authorities on the future mandate of the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO), a spokesman for the Organization said today. Mr. Akashi will travel to Belgrade over the weekend to meet with Serb leaders from Sector East. Once it is clear what the parties will accept, the Secretary-General will finalize a report to the Security Council. Meanwhile, the United Nations is expected to begin reducing troop strength in Croatia as early as next week.

UNCRO civilian police have already been redeployed from Sector West to the Zagreb-Belgrade highway to monitor the ongoing exodus of Serbs from Sector North. The Croatian Government has assured the United Nations that its police will prevent attacks on refugees such as occurred on Wednesday. No serious incidents were reported along the highway yesterday or today. However, UNCRO monitors witnessed Croatian police beating 17 people near Vrginmost, and were prevented from intervening in the incident.

The spokesman said the situation was generally stable in Croatia, notwithstanding a high level of tension in Sector East. The situation was also stable in Bosnia and Herzegovina. There was a slight increase in the number of

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firing incidents in Sarajevo, and some sniping incidents were recorded, but no major developments were reported.

* * *

What issues confronting Rwanda must be urgently addressed as tensions on the Zairean border could erupt in uncontrollable violence at any time, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report dated 2 August, he said the Rwandan Government, the countries of the subregion and other members of the international community must be involved in that endeavour. Meanwhile, all sectors of Rwandan society must begin talks in order to reach an agreement on a constitutional and political structure to ensure lasting stability. Such talks must exclude political leaders suspected of planning and directing last year's genocide.

Recalling his visit to the subregion in July, the Secretary-General said instability in one State could have a dramatic effect on all its neighbours. Destabilizing influences, such as armed infiltrations and sabotage, should be prevented through cooperative efforts. An international commission should be established under the auspices of the United Nations to address allegations of arms flows to former government forces. He also suggested the convening of a regional conference to consider the interrelated problems of peace, security and development, with a view to adopting a programme of action. Meanwhile, a technical meeting might be convened to develop concrete measures to implement commitments already undertaken regarding the repatriation of refugees.

The international community had an important role to play in Rwanda's reconstruction and in encouraging repatriation and reconciliation, the Secretary-General continued. He called on States, donor agencies and non-governmental organizations to intensify their efforts to help avert a resumption of violence. He urged the Rwandan Government to ensure respect for human rights and security for all Rwandans, and to continue to encourage the voluntary return of refugees. That would send a clear message to the international community that assistance should be accelerated.

* * *

In response to the Secretary-General's special concern about prison conditions in Rwanda, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs will convene a meeting of donors in Geneva on Monday. The Department envisages a two-pronged strategy to deal with the problem. First, prison capacity would be extended through the rapid establishment of tented or prefabricated additions to existing prisons. Then, the judicial process would be accelerated. There are over 50,000 prisoners in Rwanda, whereas the 12 main prisons have an official capacity of only 12,000.

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The Secretary-General today proposed the appointment of Rubens Ricupero as Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for a term of four years beginning 15 September. It is expected that the General Assembly will act to confirm the appointment at a plenary meeting before the opening of its fiftieth session.

Mr. Ricupero has served as Brazil's Minister of Environment and Minister of Finance, and as its Ambassador to the United States and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva. He also chaired the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Contracting Parties and Council of Representatives.

* * *

Special Adviser Alvaro de Soto will arrive in Yangon on Sunday to represent Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali at the next round of talks with the Government of Myanmar, according to a United Nations spokesman. Since the establishment of the dialogue between the Secretary-General and the Government in September 1994, three rounds of discussions have been held. The objective of the dialogue is to assist in the implementation of resolutions on Myanmar adopted by the General Assembly.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1956
14 August 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General warns United Nations is bankrupt and urgent action is needed; says excessive dependence on assessments from one Member State is unhealthy.

* Serbs expel Croats from Banja Luka in retaliation for recent exodus from Krajina; UNHCR fears for up to 30,000 Muslims still in northern Bosnia.

* Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council reports successful re-run of first round of national elections.

* Special Representative for Angola meets with President dos Santos for briefing on recent progress in peace process.

* * *

The United Nations is bankrupt and the situation requires urgent attention, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. Writing in Sunday's Washington Post, he said the Organization's cash resources did not meet either current needs or current obligations. As of the end of May, Member States owed $2.754 billion in unpaid assessments. The United States -- the largest debtor -- owed $1.179 billion.

Excessive dependence on the assessments from a single Member State was unhealthy for the United Nations, the Secretary-General stressed. The current financial situation reflected the low priority given to the Organization among the political and budgetary priorities of Member States. "A more even distribution of assessments among countries with the capacity to pay would be in the best interests of the Organization and the international community as a whole", he continued. "It should be undertaken without delay."

The Secretary-General said a simpler, more focused and more integrated United Nations was needed to better pursue the major tasks of peace-keeping, human rights, humanitarian assistance and development. He outlined reforms that were already being implemented: cutting bureaucracy and reducing the number of Secretariat posts by 135; controlling spending and achieving efficiency gains; increasing oversight and inspection; dealing with abuses such as financial wrongdoing; and improving operations in the economic and social sectors.

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For information media—not an official record

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Ethnic Croats are being expelled from Serb-controlled territory in Bosnia and Herzegovina in retaliation for the recent displacement of Krajina Serbs from Croatia, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Some 600 Bosnian Croats were forced out of Banja Luka today, and were expected to cross the Sava River into Croatia. Around 12,000 Croats remain in the Banja Luka region, which has suffered severe ethnic cleansing at the hands of the Serbs. The agency fears that the backlash will soon focus on up to 30,000 Muslims still in the region.

Meanwhile, the UNHCR has been assisting tens of thousands of Krajina Serb refugees in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), with airlifts and road convoys. Deputy High Commissioner Gerald Walzer said he was shocked at the magnitude of the crisis and the suffering of the people. He added that more help was needed for refugees still on the road from northern Bosnia to Serbia.

* * *

Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council reported that polling went smoothly in yesterday's re-run of the first round of national elections. Voters in 21 of the country's 133 communes had another chance to vote, but the turn-out was low. All polling places were functioning fully by 8:30 a.m. and there were few technical problems. The United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) assisted with security and there were no significant incidents.

* * *

Special Representative Alioune Blondin Beye met today with the President of Angola, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, for a briefing on the President's recent meeting in Gabon with the leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), Jonas Savimbi. Mr. Beye will meet with Dr. Savimbi later in the week.

At the meeting in Gabon, it was agreed that one of the two vice-presidential positions in the Angolan Government would go to UNITA. It was expected that Dr. Savimbi would be named by UNITA to fill the post. However, the Angolan leaders did not reach full agreement on modalities for integrating UNITA into the Angolan armed forces, and talks were expected to resume at the military level.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1957
15 August 1995

T U E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

* Security Council commemorates fiftieth anniversary of end of Second World War in Asia-Pacific region; observes minute of silence in memory of War's victims.

* United Nations says 130,000 Krajina Serbs have now fled to Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; Croat exodus from Serb-controlled Bosnia continues.

* Chairman of United Nations Special Commission to visit Baghdad for four days at invitation of Iraqi Government.

* Security Council expresses concern at slow progress in Western Sahara identification process; calls on parties to cooperate fully with MINURSO.

* Security Council condemns kidnapping of civilians in Kashmir and related death of Norwegian national; demands immediate release of all detainees.

* Team from DHA and UNDP to prepare detailed plan for improving prison conditions in Rwanda.

* Member States owe United Nations $2.61 billion as of 31 July; $866 million owed to regular budget and $1.74 billion owed to peace-keeping.

* Ad Hoc Committee on Establishment of International Criminal Court to finalize report to General Assembly on draft statute.

* * *

The Security Council today commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War in the Asia-Pacific region with a statement by its President, Nugroho Wisnumurti (Indonesia). The Council also observed a minute of silence in memory of the War's victims.

The Council President said the Second World War had shattered the lives of tens of millions of people in the Asia-Pacific region. In order to prevent the recurrence of such a tragedy, the United Nations had been established, with

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primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security conferred by the Charter on the Security Council.

"Unity and harmony among nations would be the most honourable and noble way to pay tribute to those who sacrificed their lives for peace during the Second World War", the statement continued. "For this reason, it is appropriate for the Security Council to pay homage on this anniversary to all the victims of the Second World War in the Asia-Pacific region."

* * *

Some 130,000 Croatian Serbs have entered the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) since the exodus from the Krajina region began last week, according to a United Nations spokesman. Meanwhile, Croats have continued to leave Serb-controlled territory around Banja Luka in Bosnia and Herzegovina. There are estimated to be 15,000 Croats in the area, as well as 30,000 to 35,000 Muslims.

The overall situation in the former Yugoslavia was quiet today, the spokesman said. The Bosnian Government continued its offensive in the area of Donji Vakuf, but there was a significant reduction in activity there, while Serb shelling of the Croatian port of Dubrovnik abated. However, there was some small-arms, mortar and artillery fire in the southern part of Sector East in Croatia last night. Four United Nations observation posts manned by Russian troops were hit by fire from the Croatian side and one was abandoned.

* * *

The Chairman of the Special Commission on the disarmament of Iraq, Rolf Ekeus, will leave New York tonight for a four-day visit to Baghdad, according to a United Nations spokesman. He is going at the invitation of Iraq to receive additional information regarding its weapons programmes. Mr. Ekeus will travel on to Amman, Jordan, for further meetings. Iraq yesterday informed him that the "deadline" of the end of August for United Nations action to lift the oil embargo against it was no longer in force.

Iraq recently declared that it had developed biological weapons before 1991, but claimed that it had destroyed all of them. Mr. Ekeus welcomed that declaration, but said there were certain shortcomings and contradictions in it.

* * *

The Security Council has expressed deep concern about the slow progress in the identification process in Western Sahara. In a statement to correspondents at Headquarters yesterday, President Wisnumurti called on both parties to

cooperate fully with the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) in ensuring progress in the identification and registration process.

The Council also expressed its full confidence in, and support for, the Acting Special Representative, Erik Jensen, for his efforts in cooperation with both parties.

* * *

In another statement to correspondents yesterday, the President of the Council strongly condemned the kidnapping of civilians in Kashmir, as a result of which one Norwegian national had been killed. He expressed deep concern over the reappearance of kidnapping, an act of international terrorism condemned by the international community, and demanded the immediate release of all detainees.

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The Department of Humanitarian Affairs yesterday convened a meeting in Geneva aimed at improving conditions in Rwanda's prisons. The meeting was attended by representatives of seventeen governments, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Several governments expressed support in principle for the United Nations initiative to relieve prison overcrowding and expedite the judicial process in Rwanda. However, they wanted more details, including on costing. A group of officials from the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will leave for Rwanda on Thursday to prepare a comprehensive plan. The group will work with the Secretary-General's Special Representative, the United Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), and the Rwandan Government.

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As of 31 July, Member States owed the United Nations a total of $2.61 billion, according to the latest update on the Organization's financial situation. Of that amount $866 million was owed to the regular budget and $1.74 billion was for peace-keeping.

The United States -- the largest debtor -- owed $527 million to the regular budget and $649 million to peace-keeping. The Russian Federation owed $21 million to the regular budget and $500 million to peace-keeping.

(more)

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The Ad Hoc Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court has reconvened its first session to finalize a report to the General Assembly on its review of the draft statute for such a court. The draft was adopted by the International Law Commission at its forty-sixth session in July 1994. The report, which is expected to be approved at the conclusion of the current two-week segment on 25 August, will include a summary of the Committee's discussions on the substantive and administrative issues arising out of the draft statute.

The Committee agreed to begin its work with a general discussion of the principle of complementarity, including the issue of the statute's relationship to national jurisdiction. According to the draft, the court would provide a complementary international criminal justice system to enhance the effective prosecution and suppression of crimes of international concern by national criminal justice systems.

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